



7-22-1910

Letter From Francis Mairs Huntington-Wilson to Philander C. Knox, July 22, 1910

Francis Mairs Huntington-Wilson

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Recommended Citation

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July 22, 1910.

Dear Mr. Secretary:

The enclosed copy of a letter to the Chargés d'Affaires of Brazil and Argentina, the equivalent of which was sent also to the Spanish Minister, will show you the status of the tripartite mediation.

General Wood gave me a glowing oral account of his Embassy to Buenos Aires, which I gather was eminently successful. He established splendid relations with the President of Chile. This reminds me that the Chilean press is now very friendly to the United States; that Chile has greatly appreciated our attitude towards her in regard to the Peru-Ecuador mediation, and that Chile is now asking us to nominate a sanitary expert for their sanitation projects. General Wood, happily, is going to be enthusiastically for our point of view about sending plenty of military attaches of suitable rank.

Herewith Sherrill's very confidential telegram which I mentioned last night. If you should approve I should send this reply:-

"If the Argentine Government itself desires to make

this

"this proposal with the clear understanding that the
"initiative is its own it would be a pleasure to this
"Government if such a convention were adopted, especially
"on account of the principle of practical cooperation and
"the joining of the United States and the Argentine Re-
"public in making substantial contribution to this Pan-
"American project." Mr. SHarrill wants an early reply.
Will you please wire me:- "Railway telegram, yes or no." ?

Herewith a number of papers which Mr. Dawson sends me
with the idea that they may be of interest. I think it
will be quite enough for Mr. Charles Wilson to run through th
them and call your attention to some points thereof.

Herewith copy of the telegram I talked of by tele-
phone last night. It has been sent this morning to the
Bluefields Steamship Company for their information and that
of the seven other New Orleans companies. Copies have
also been given the Norwegian Chargé d'Affaires and cabled
to the Legation at Christiania to hand the Minister for
Foreign Affairs for his information.

Very sincerely yours,

The Honorable P. C. Knox,

Essex and Sussex Hotel,

Spring Lake, New Jersey.

Enclosures.

P. S. I forgot to say that last night Mallet Provost had a long talk with Mr. Clark. Mallet Provost was imbued with the idea that the Department favored the Bonilla revolution in Honduras. It seems Paredes, the Special Minister of Honduras, gave him the untruthful information that he had heard so from an official of the Department. Mr. Clark pointed out the falsity of the idea and the fact that we could not if we would and would not if we could. Mallet Provost, whose partner is a brother of Lazo the regular Minister of Honduras at Washington, says that he thinks he himself could bring to bear enough influence to get the loan plan put through. I venture to suggest that if I were you during your stay in New York I should send for Davidson and Jennings, emphasize the importance of the Honduras matter and get Dawson to insist that Jennings scale down or leave to arbitration the Valentine items. I would also send for Mallet Provost and give him an inkling that if the present Government of Honduras values American friendship and sympathy its best course would be to put through the loan and to eschew Zelaya sympathies. This hint might get to the right place through Mallet Provost, whom I should
also

also give a chance to carry out his boast that he could cause the loan to go through. I mention this possible course owing to my belief that you know Mallet Prevost, very well.

If you chose to get things started in this way someone from here could later discuss details with Davidson and Jennings. I understand they have extended their option on the British claims.